



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

OFFICE OF FORMATION, MINISTRY, AND LIFE OF PERMANENT DEACONS DIACONAL FORMATION

STAGES OF FORMATION

FIRST STAGE

• **VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**

- **RECRUITMENT/INQUIRY** - participation in information sessions; inquirer's information
- **DISCERNMENT** - application for admission; marital assessment; psychological evaluation; interview with Coord. or Admissions
- **SELECTION** - Admissions Committee reviews the application package and makes recommendation
- **ASPIRANCY** - **one year preparation**; in-depth study of the diaconate; intro to theology and Scripture; formation of community

SECOND STAGE

• **FORMATION FOR THE DIACONATE (4 YEARS)**

- **CANDIDACY FOR HOLY ORDERS** - Four-year curriculum of theological studies; liturgical/pastoral/spiritual formation
- **INSTITUTED LAY MINISTRIES** - Lector and Acolyte
- **ENRICHMENT OF MARRIAGE** - Spiritual and Human Formation for the couple and Wives
- **ADMISSION/SCRUTINIES COMMITTEE** - Nominates/Recommends to Bishop men for Promotion to the Order of the Diaconate

THIRD STAGE

• **PERMANENT FORMATION (ONGOING)**

- **NEW DEACONS** - Post-Ordination formation (**MANDATORY FOR NEW DEACONS**)
- **DEACONS** - Ongoing formation and mentorship
- **WIVES AND FAMILY** - Ongoing pastoral formation and care